

**From:** dre@mac.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/16/02 9:16pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I applaud the recent decision to deny Microsoft's proposed settlement. Aside from the fact that Microsoft needs to be held fully accountable for all that it's done, the settlement itself could have proved beneficial to Microsoft.

I am a computer professional by trade, and in my opinion, the damage Microsoft has done is so widespread and pervasive as to be difficult to ascertain. At this point, Microsoft's sheer mass affords them opportunities to simply overpower competition, and buy their way out of other problems (and into new markets). Certainly, these are luxuries that any successful company should enjoy.

Not, however, if that success is obtained through illegal acts. This has been a long investigation, and there are \*more than enough\* examples of Microsoft not playing fairly in this highly competitive market - everything from intentionally preventing products of competitors from working with Windows, to essentially forcing PC makers to include Windows with new PCs.

I also strongly believe that Microsoft is simply not good for the computer industry, or any other industry for that matter. It is clear that their products and services are designed chiefly to further entrench Microsoft into an ever expanding cross-section of markets. From my perspective, Microsoft's products are generally not the best to be had, and certainly not superior to the degree reflected by their market share.

In conclusion, I fully support continued investigation into relevant details of the case. The thought of Microsoft growing out of control and absorbing all business and markets in their chosen industries is a very sobering one indeed, and I am quite glad that we have the Department of Justice tasked in part with keeping things legal and fair. Thank you for your time.

Oh, and please keep a close eye on .net. I'm very worried :/

Sincerely,  
Andre LaBranche